

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A control mechanism for a rotary hand tool of the type having a generally
2 cylindrical housing in which a drive motor is located, the housing having a nose portion
3 at an end from which a motor output shaft extends and a grip portion around which an
4 operator can wrap a hand during operation of the tool and within which portion a motor is
5 housed, said mechanism comprising:

6 an electrical control circuit that controls the application of power to and the
7 operation of the motor ; and

8 a light touch switch having at least a first position and a second position coupled
9 to said electrical control circuit for selectively enabling or disabling said control circuit
10 to turn the motor on and off;

11 wherein said switch is disposed on a portion of the nose portion of the rotary hand
12 tool such that an operator can actuate said switch without altering the operator's grip on
13 the tool.

1 2. The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said switch is configured to be
2 generally rectangular.

1 3. The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said switch has a predetermined
2 thickness.

1 4. The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said first position disables said
2 electrical control circuit and said second position enables said electrical control circuit.

1 5. The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said portion of the nose portion
2 on which said switch is disposed generally corresponds to a location of the operator's
3 index finger when grasping the tool.

1 6. The control mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a layer of flexible
2 grip material surrounding at least a portion of the nose portion.

1 7. The control mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a layer of grip
2 material surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which said switch is disposed.

1 8. The control mechanism of claim 6 further comprising a layer of rubber
2 surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which said switch is disposed.

1 9. The control mechanism of claim 6 wherein said compressible material
2 abuts said switch when said compressible material is compressed.

1 10. A switch assembly for selectively controlling actuation or deactivation of
2 control circuitry that controls the power applied to and the operation of the motor of a
3 rotary hand tool of the type having a generally cylindrical housing that includes a
4 generally cylindrical nose portion at an end from which an output shaft extends, and a
5 grip portion around which an operator wraps a hand during operation of the tool, the nose
6 portion having a cavity configured to receive a switch body, said switch assembly
7 comprising:

8 a switch body having a predetermined configuration and containing at least a pair
9 of switch contacts that are selectively opened and closed responsive to a switch button;
10 and

11 a cavity disposed in the nose portion of the tool that is configured to matingly
12 receive at least a portion of said body and permit actuation of said switch button;

13 a layer of grip material surrounding at least a portion of the grip portion in which
14 said switch body is disposed.